

before being sent. The mobile device 320 processes the received notification 326 based on the tagged value applied to the notification.

FIGURE 4 is an overview flowchart illustrating a notification system. After a start block, the logic moves to a block 410 where notifications are tagged and prepared for sending to a partner (See FIGURE 5 and related discussion). Notifications are messages sent to a device as the changes occur and are received by a device independent of any synchronization process. According to one embodiment of the present invention, a wireless device receives tagged notifications indicating a synchronization state. Moving to a block 420, the tagged notification is sent to the receiving device(s). Generally, a server sends the tagged notifications to a client. Alternatively, the client may send tagged notifications to the server. The notifications may be sent to the client or server using many different methods, as is well known to those of ordinary skill in the art. At a block 430, the receiving device processes the tagged notification. Generally, tagged notifications that are current with respect to the synchronization between the client and server are processed, old notifications are deleted, and future notifications are queued (See FIGURE 7 and related discussion). The logical flow then ends.

FIGURE 5 shows a logical flow for preparing tagged notifications according to one embodiment of the invention. Starting at a block 510, a synchronization state between the devices is determined. According to one particular embodiment, a synchronization key is used to determine the current synchronization state between the device and the server. The synchronization key is a key as described in co-pending patent application, filed on the same day as this application, Serial No. 09/892,679, originally entitled "Method and System for Using a Sync Key," by Thomas et al, which is incorporated herein by reference. Briefly described, the sync key is an integer that starts at zero and is incremented with each successful synchronization with the synchronization partner. When the devices have the same sync key value the devices agree on the last synchronization checkpoint. To synchronize to another checkpoint, a device sends the sync key last sent to it by the synchronization partner. For example, if each device is at synchronization level four, and a device desires to synchronize to level five, the device sends the sync key having a